

# SARUM PLANS

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Anglo-Swiss miner Xstrata is stepping up its Queensland coal expansion plans, flagging another coking and thermal coalmine in the Surat Basin, about 20km from Collinsville.

The Australian newspaper reported yesterday the company plans to start producing five million tonnes a year of coal in 2013 or 2014.

According to documents submitted to the Federal Environment Department, Xstrata plans to start building a new open pit and underground mine operation, known as Sarum, in 2011 or 2012.

In a recent investor presentation, Xstrata said the mine would produce about five million tones of coal a year. Coal from Sarum would be transported to the Abbot Point terminal.

The submission of documents is the first stage of the process to obtain environmental approval. The mine is yet to be approved by the Xstrata board.